



68-10725

RCP BULLETIN

Website: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/resp.htm>

E-MAIL: resp@tdh.state.tx.us

A Newsletter for Texas Respiratory Care Practitioners

Vol. 5 No. 1

Winter, 2001

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO FORGE AN RCP IDENTIFICATION CARD

Forgery of a RCP card is tampering with a government document and a FELONY.

Penal Code 37.10 (a) states: A person commits an offense if he: (1) knowingly makes a false entry in, or false alteration of, a governmental record... (d) An offense under this section is a felony of the third degree if it is shown on the trial of the offense that the governmental record is (a license, certificate, permit, seal, title)...unless the actor's intent... is to defraud or harm another, in which event the offense is a felony of the second degree.

FORGERIES HAVE INCREASED

A number of altered/forged renewal cards have been used by persons who are not certified as Respiratory Care Practitioners. Please refer to Respiratory Care Practitioners certification rules. §123.14. Violations, Complaints, and Subsequent Actions.

(b) Types of offenses and prohibited actions. A person is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor if:

...(4) a person sells, fraudulently obtains, or furnishes any respiratory care diploma, certificate, permit or record;

(5) a person practices respiratory care under a respiratory care diploma, certificate, permit, or record illegally or fraudulently obtained or issued;

(6) a person practices respiratory care during the time that person's certificate or permit is suspended, revoked, or expired;

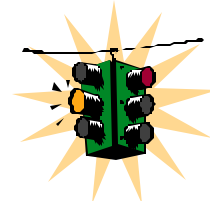
To check the status of an RCP certificate, temporary permit or renewal, check for the RCP's name on the RCP Roster on the Respiratory Care webpage at: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/rcrost.htm>

The Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 604, Respiratory Care Practitioners Act, states: §604.101. Certificate or Temporary Permit Required; Supervision

(a) A person may not represent that the person is able to practice respiratory care or that the person is a respiratory care practitioner unless the person holds a certificate or temporary permit issued under this chapter.

(b) A person may not practice respiratory care other than under the direction of a qualified medical director or other physician licensed by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

If you know someone who has forged a respiratory care diploma, certificate, permit or record, please report this to the Respiratory Care Program at (512) 834-6632.



DO NOT give your card to anybody other than appropriate supervisory staff at your job!

DO NOT present or accept copies of RCP cards. Ask to see the original!

DO NOT fax a copy of your card or certificate to anybody!

NEW! Rules Update

\$30.00 ADDITIONAL FEE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION EXTENSION - Effective January 1, 2002

Rather than increase the renewal fees for all respiratory care practitioners, there will be an additional fee of \$30.00 if you need a continuing education extension. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

12 hours of continuing education is due at time of renewal or pay an additional fee of \$30.00.

Section 123.4. Fees. **New!** An additional fee of \$50.00 is required for any returned checks.

New! Section 123.15 concerning Informal Dispositions was added.

Section 123.14. Violations, Complaints, and Subsequent Actions.

New! (h) (5) was added. A person whose application is denied or whose temporary permit or certificate is revoked is ineligible for a temporary permit or certificate under this Act for one year from the date of the denial, or revocation or surrender.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) TIPS

- ALL CE must be pre-approved unless offered by a respiratory care education program accredited by CoARC.
- ALL CE must directly relate to the performance of respiratory care procedures or to a cardio-respiratory disease or condition in human beings.
- A maximum of 4 hours of internet-based or computer-based CE courses are allowed if the course is approved in advance by AARC, TSRC or certain other organizations, and if the topic directly relates to respiratory care.
- At least 8 hours must be instructor-directed. Only 4 hours may be computer or internet based courses.
- If in a CE extension, fax or mail ALL certificates reflecting successful completion of 12 hours of credit. Do this at least 10 days prior to the expiration of a CE extension to (512) 834-4518, Attention: RCP Program.
- If faxing or mailing CE certificates less than 10 days before your certificate expires, the RCP Program cannot guarantee that a renewal card will be issued before the extension expires.
- Please allow at least 2 working days after sending a fax BEFORE calling the RCP Program. Please include on the fax your social security number, name, and phone number where you may be reached between 8a.m. and 5p.m. M-F, or your e-mail address.
- Only ONE 90 day extension can be granted each CE period. No exceptions.
- A maximum of 12 hours of advanced life support courses (ACLS, PALS, NALS, NRP) is allowed each CE period. The course must be taken during the current CE period or during an extension.
- The RCP Program recommends keeping CE documentation for at least 3 years after a renewal card is issued.
- ALL CE must be completed between your CE start date and end date. Please read the enclosure that is mailed with your renewal card. Each RCP will have a new CE start and end date every year.
- No, your CE period is not the same as the person you work with or know.

- Send in copies of CE certificates. Do Not send originals!
- Know the groups that approve, recognize or assign CE credit:

American Association for
Respiratory Care (Category 1
only)
American Association of Critical
Care Nurses
American College of Cardiology
American College of Chest
Physicians
American Medical Association
(Category 1 only)
American Nurses Association
American Society of
Anesthesiologists
American Thoracic Society
Texas Education Agency
Texas Society for Respiratory Care
Texas Thoracic Society

FROM THE DAY YOU MAIL YOUR RENEWAL:

1. Renewal/application/ checks go to a lockbox for opening, processing and entering into our system; they may not reach the RCP Program for 2-3 weeks.
2. After receipt, staff enters the changes into your file on the RCP database and make preparations for printing your card.
3. Cards are printed only on Wednesdays. The fees and all documentation must be processed by Tuesday afternoon of the week the cards print.

4. The website is usually updated by Friday afternoon.

5. Sometimes there are unforeseen delays due to the mail, check processing, and other reasons beyond our control. Mail your renewal **EARLY**.

TOP 10 WAYS TO HELP EXPEDITE YOUR RENEWAL

- Complete the renewal form **BEFORE** mailing your fee.
- Read the enclosures sent with your renewal.
- Read the information regarding continuing education.
- Make early renewal a high priority. Wait 4 to 5 weeks after mailing your completed renewal for renewal cards to be processed.
- Wait at least 2 working days **BEFORE** calling the RCP Program after faxing continuing education documentation for staff to review.
- Check the status of a renewal on the RCP Roster at:
<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/rcrost.txt>
- Report address changes to TDH in writing within 30 days. E-mail a change of address to
resp@tdh.state.tx.us

➤ Be sure to answer **ALL** items on the renewal form.

➤ Get forms and information at:
<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/resp.htm>

➤ Open and read **ALL** correspondence from the TDH/RCP program immediately. Renewing late will result in penalties and may postpone your return to work up to 4 or 5 weeks.

INACTIVE STATUS:

To be placed on inactive status, submit a written request **BEFORE** your license expires. If you are on a CE extension, you are not eligible. **No refunds will be given, and no fees or CE is needed while inactive. Of course, you are not allowed to practice respiratory care while on inactive status.**

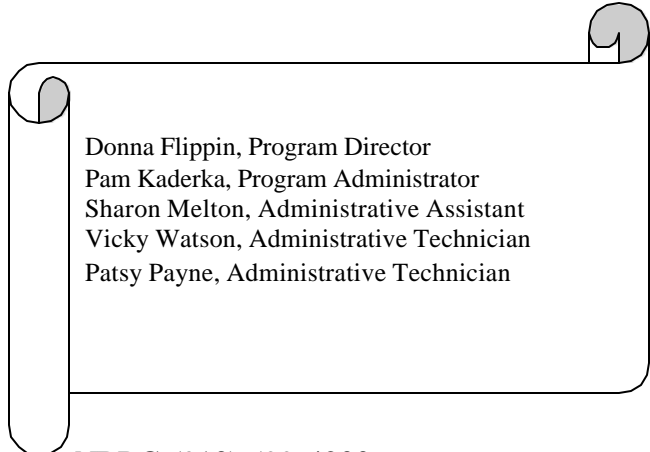
TO REACTIVATE:

- (1) Notify TDH in writing
- (2) Complete a reactivation form (on the website or we'll send you one)
- (3) Submit \$45.00 reactivation fee
- (4) Provide proof of successful completion of 12 hours of CE earned during the 12 months prior to applying for active status.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The TDH has reported disciplinary actions to the National Practitioner Data Bank on the following Respiratory Care Practitioners. For more information on the specific disciplinary actions or to view a list of Respiratory Care Practitioners with expired licenses, please visit our TDH website at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/resp.htm>.

Akins, Diana	Handsaker, Paula	Porterfield, Greg
Alpert, Kenneth	Holt, Pamela	Randle, Jesse
Anaya, Eddie	Iwu, Mathias	Reed, Richard
Baker, Thomas	Johnson, Kristi	Robinson, Johnie
Barrera, Luis	Jones, Gayla	Rose, Michael
Bell, Sean	Kidd, Shannon	Ross, Douglas
Beyer-Tice, Beth	Kirby, Vicki	Sanders, Jennifer
Bloyd, Amy	Leal, Leonel	Sanders, Teresa
Blurton, Lola Jean	Lindsey, Anthony	Scott, Susan
Bradbery, Sherri	Lopez, Daniel	Scurlock, Claude III
Bradley, Gary	Lucio, Juan	Segura, Armando
Brigance, Troy Bradley	Lutz, Robert	Simpson, LaSonya
Brown, June	Lysell, Cheryl	Slaton, Jimmie Ted (2)
Buchanan, Vicki	Martinez, Lozeno	Smith, Larry Carlyle
Carrio, Mike	Martin, Daniel	Spurgers, Linda
Copeland, Stacy	McClain, Marilyn	Stewart, Leonard
Covin, Lesa	Morford, Deanna	Stuart, David
Crowson, David	Morgan, Richard	Tamez, Maria
Daughtry, Gary	Moton, Jerry	Tetens, Anita
Delp, Leslie	Norris, Danny	Trammell, James
Doyle, Larry	Obike, Florence	Trantham, Anthony
Drinning, Sheri	Ordon, Ronnie	Tristan, Christine
Edwards, David	Palmeri, Thomas	Tucker, Stephanie
Ellis, Brad	Papp, William	Waller, Donna
Flores, Martin	Pate, Vick	Wilhite, Lori
Goble, Scott	Phillips, Cheryl	Wright, Amy
Graham, Richey	Pickering, Robert	Wyatt, Dana



Donna Flippin, Program Director
Pam Kaderka, Program Administrator
Sharon Melton, Administrative Assistant
Vicky Watson, Administrative Technician
Patsy Payne, Administrative Technician

NBRC (913) 599-4200
TSRC (972) 680-2455
AARC (972) 243-2272

RCP Program: 512/834-6632
Fax: 512/834-4518
Attn: Respiratory Care Program

Use this address to send fees without coupons:
TDH/Respiratory Care Practitioners
P. O. Box 12197
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-2197

Use this address to send correspondence:
TDH/Respiratory Care Practitioners
1100 W 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756-3183